

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (canceled)
2. (original) The toothbrush of claim 10, further comprising:
a resilient thumb contact structure inserted in the handle, and dimensioned such that the human thumb, when the handle is grasped for using the toothbrush, exerts a thumb pressing force on the resilient thumb contact.
3. (previously presented) The toothbrush of claim 2, wherein the second neck extends from the handle in a direction substantially parallel to the first neck.
4. (previously presented) The toothbrush of claim 2, wherein the plurality of second bristles extend from the second bristle support in a direction substantially parallel to the plurality of first bristles.
5. (previously presented) The toothbrush of claim 2, wherein the plurality of first and second bristles are formed of a material having a first stiffness.

6. (previously presented) The toothbrush of claim 2, wherein the resilient thumb contact structure includes an oval-shaped resilient thumb contact structure.

7. (previously presented) The toothbrush of claim 6, wherein a cavity in the handle includes an oval-shaped cavity.

8. (previously presented) The toothbrush of claim 10, wherein the first bristle support and the second bristle support are twin articulating heads.

9. (previously presented) The toothbrush of claim 10, wherein (i) the plurality of first and second bristles have the stiffness, and (ii) the first and second necks and the first and second bristle supports have the resiliency, the flexibility and the bending resistance, and wherein the resiliency, flexibility and bending resistance of the necks and the bristle supports are set depending upon both (i) the brushing force and (ii) the stiffness of the bristles, such that the toothbrush, through the bristles coupled to the bristle supports and the necks, adapts to the dento-gingival junction and all other changing surfaces encountered during brushing to disrupt plaque.

10. (previously presented) A toothbrush comprising:
a handle shaped and dimensioned to be grasped by a human hand;
a first neck coupled to the handle;

a second neck coupled to the handle;
a first bristle support coupled to the first neck;
a second bristle support coupled to the second neck;
a plurality of first bristles coupled to the first bristle support; and
a plurality of second bristles coupled to the second bristle support,
wherein the plurality of first and second bristles have a stiffness, and the
first and second necks have a resiliency, a flexibility and a bending resistance, and
wherein the resiliency, flexibility and bending resistance of the necks are
set depending upon both (i) a brushing force and (ii) the stiffness of the bristles, such that
the toothbrush, through the bristles coupled to the necks, adapts to a dento-gingival
junction and all other changing surfaces encountered during brushing to disrupt plaque.

11. (previously presented) A toothbrush comprising:
- a handle shaped and dimensioned to be grasped by a human hand;
a first neck coupled to the handle;
a second neck coupled to the handle;
a first bristle support coupled to the first neck;
a second bristle support coupled to the second neck;
a plurality of first bristles coupled to the first bristle support; and
a plurality of second bristles coupled to the second bristle support,
wherein the plurality of first and second bristles have a stiffness, and the
first and second necks have a resiliency, a flexibility and a bending resistance, and

wherein the stiffness of the bristles is set depending upon both (i) a brushing force and (ii) the resiliency, flexibility and bending resistance of the necks, such that the toothbrush, through the bristles coupled to the necks, adapts to a dento-gingival junction and all other changing surfaces encountered during brushing to disrupt plaque.

12. (previously presented) The toothbrush of claim 11,

wherein (i) the plurality of first and second bristles have the stiffness, and (ii) the first and second necks and the first and second bristle supports have the resiliency, the flexibility and the bending resistance, and

wherein the stiffness of the bristles is set depending upon both (i) the brushing force and (ii) the resiliency, flexibility and bending resistance of the necks and the bristle supports, such that the toothbrush, through the bristles coupled to the bristle supports and the necks, adapts to the dento-gingival junction and all other changing surfaces encountered during brushing to disrupt plaque.

13-16. (canceled)

17. (New) A toothbrush comprising:

a handle shaped and dimensioned to be grasped by a human hand;

a first neck coupled to the handle;

a second neck coupled to the handle;

a first bristle support coupled to the first neck;

a second bristle support coupled to the second neck;

a plurality of first bristles coupled to the first bristle support; and
a plurality of second bristles coupled to the second bristle support,
wherein the necks, the bristle supports and the bristles, in combination,
have a resiliency, flexibility and bending resistance that provides effective plaque
disruption by the toothbrush for any brushing force exerted by a user.

18. (New) The toothbrush of claim 17, wherein the resiliency,
flexibility and bending resistance of the necks, the bristle supports and the bristles, in
combination, also provides effective gum stimulation by the toothbrush for any brushing
force exerted by the user.

19. (New) A toothbrush comprising:
a handle shaped and dimensioned to be grasped by a human hand;
a first neck coupled to the handle;
a second neck coupled to the handle;
a first bristle support coupled to the first neck;
a second bristle support coupled to the second neck;
a plurality of first bristles coupled to the first bristle support; and
a plurality of second bristles coupled to the second bristle support,
wherein the necks, the bristle supports and the bristles, in combination,
have an appropriate resiliency, flexibility and bending resistance that provides effective
(i) plaque disruption and (2) gum stimulation during brushing for (i) all brushing forces
exerted by a user and (ii) all changing surfaces encountered by the toothbrush.

20. (New) The toothbrush of claim 19, wherein the plaque removal includes dento-gingival junction plaque removal.